

The Joseph Coltart House  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

HABS No. PA 47

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. PA 4

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Charles M. Stotz, District Officer  
818 Bessemer Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.

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THE JOSEPH COLTART HOUSE

Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Owner Willis L. King, 4900 Wallingford Street, Pittsburgh.

Date of Erection 1843 (approximately).

Architect Joseph Coltart.

Builder Joseph Coltart.

Present Condition Good structural condition, badly defaced, generally due to miscellaneous occupancy during recent years. Practically unchanged from original appearance, except for addition of porch on Fifth Avenue front (not recorded).

Number of Stories Two and one-half, with finished basement.

Materials of Construction Stone foundation, brick exterior walls (painted), brick bearing walls, wood interior partitions, wood floor and roof construction. Present roof covering tin on top deck and slate on slopes. Galvanized iron copings modern, also porch railings and steps on Forbes Street front.

Other Existing Records Land transfer data from Deed Books of Allegheny County.

Additional Data: Joseph Coltart, an architect and builder, came to Pittsburgh from Scotland in the early part of the 19th Century. Formed partnership with William Dilworth known as Coltart and Dilworth, and built many structures in Pittsburgh, including the second Court House, designed by the English Architect, John Chislett, about 1840.

The land on which the house is located was bought by Mr. Coltart from Wm. P. Baum on February 16th 1843 and the erection of the house no doubt followed immediately thereafter. On January 24th 1912 the property passed into the hands of Mr. Willis L. King, whose wife is a granddaughter of the builder.

Since then it served for a time as temporary Detention Home for the Allegheny County Juvenile Court. It is at present untenanted (February 1935)

The house is a fair example of the well-to-do suburban dwelling of the late Greek Revival period, having been built well beyond the city limits of the time. It is extremely simple in plan, with an unusual placing of the small one-story wings connected by the gallery porch on the south elevation. The interior wood finish is bold rather than refined in detail, but excellent in character and in a good state of preservation. There are in the double parlors, two mantels of black-and-gold marble, exactly alike in detail, worthy of notice. The stairway is continuous from the first to third floors, with round tapered balusters and small plain hand rail; the latter, curved around a spindle-like baluster, forms the starting newel.

The exterior brick work and stone foundation have been heavily painted in recent years. A 4-column Greek Doric porch of heavy detail and unsuitable character, also an ugly dormer window, added at an unknown period (Both on the Fifth Avenue front) have not been recorded.

*Louis Stevens*

Louis Stevens - Author

Approved

*Charles M. Stotz*

Charles M. Stotz  
District Officer PA 4

Date March 12<sup>th</sup> 1935

*Reviewed 1936 by H.C.F.*